



University of Groningen

The role of extension in building capacity and resilience in Australian rural industries

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The Role of Extension in Building Capacity and Resilience in Australian Rural Industries

Propositions for defence

1. *Agricultural research and extension must be viewed as interdependent partner disciplines in an agricultural innovation system (this Thesis).*
2. *Agricultural extension in Australia has undergone a process of irreversible change since the early 1990s (this Thesis).*
3. *There is evidence of public and private sector failure in extension services in Australia (this Thesis).*
4. *Capacity-building is an enabler of rural industry resilience (this Thesis).*
5. *There are both tangible agricultural production and sustainability orientated benefits achieved from integrated research, development and extension (RD&E) efforts, as well as social benefits at the community level (this Thesis).*
6. *There is evidence that agricultural innovation systems communications channels in many western economies are becoming increasingly fragmented and as such there is a risk of declining productivity gains (this Thesis).*
7. *With the withdrawal of the public sector from agricultural RD&E across many State Government jurisdictions in Australia, a way that industries can better secure future necessary RD&E capability is to organise their own institutions in collaboration with matched funds from the Australian federal government (this Thesis).*
8. *There is a strategic advantage from having a robust agricultural RD&E system.*
9. *Australian rural industries really haven't grasped how good a system they had, and how they have allowed this capacity to become so depleted compared to its former state and that some new thinking is required to resolve this situation.*
10. *The great navigator Abel Tasman (a native of Groningen) could have been the first European to discover Australia's agricultural potential, but alas he preferred to largely stay at sea and ventured very little ashore. Consequently, his employer Anthony Van Diemen of the Dutch East Indies Company asserted that he was a better sailor than explorer – and the rest is as they say - is history.*